

-- REMARKS --

In the Non-Final Office Action, Examiner Choi rejected pending claims 1-12 on various grounds. The Applicants respond to each rejection as subsequently recited herein, and respectfully requests reconsideration and further examination of the present application under 37 CFR § 1.112:

A. Claims 1-4, 7 and 8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,161,880 to *Azuma*

The Applicant has thoroughly considered Examiner Choi's remarks concerning the patentability of claims 1-4, 7 and 8 over *Azuma*. The Applicant has also thoroughly read *Azuma*. As illustrated in FIGS. 3 and 4 of *Azuma*, the Applicant respectfully asserts that *Azuma* discloses a single chamber for accommodating a tubular lamp 21. The single chamber is defined by housing 24 and light emitting plate member 25. In particular, side wall is non-transparent with a reflective inner surface. See, *Azuma* at column 3, lines 42-49.

To better differentiate the present invention of *Azuma* and the remaining art of record, the Applicant has cancelled claims 1-8 herein and added claims 13-31. The Applicant respectfully asserts that *Azuma* and the remaining art of record, in combination, fail to disclose, teach or suggest the following limitation of independent claims 13, 20, and 27:

1. “a second chamber defined by a light emission window and a curtain”, “wherein, when the at least one tubular lamp is located within said first chamber, any light emitted by the at least one tubular lamp passes through said curtain into said second chamber with a first homogenous light distribution”, and “wherein any light passing into said second chamber passes through said light emitting window with a second homogenous light distribution” as recited in independent claim 13;

2. "a second chamber defined by a light emission window and a carrier wall", "a curtain disposed within said second chamber", "wherein, when the at least one tubular lamp is located within said first chamber, any light emitted by the at least one tubular lamp passes through said carrier wall into said second chamber with a first homogenous light distribution", and "wherein any light passing into said second chamber passes through said light emitting window with a second homogenous light distribution"
as recited in independent claim 20; and
3. "a first luminaire including a first homogeneous light distribution chamber and a second homogeneous light distribution chamber both defined by a first side wall, said second homogeneous light distribution chamber further defined by a first light emission window", "a second luminaire including a third homogeneous light distribution chamber and a fourth homogeneous light distribution chamber both defined by a second side wall, said fourth homogeneous light distribution chamber further defined by a second light emission window", "wherein, a first edge of said first light emission window lies against a second edge of said second light emission window", and "wherein said first side wall and said second side wall both include a light-transmitting material"
as recited in independent claim 27.

In particular, *Azuma* teach a second chamber and side walls including a light-transmitting material.

The Applicant therefore respectfully requests a withdrawal of the rejection of independent claims 1-4, 7 and 8 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by *Azuma* and an allowance of claims 13-31 over the art of record.

B. Claims 5, 6 and 10-12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,369,786 B1 to *Azuma*

The Applicant has cancelled claims 5, 6 and 10-12 herein without disclaimer or prejudice as to the claimed subject matter. Withdrawal of the rejection of claims 5, 6 and 10-12 under §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Azuma* is therefore respectfully requested.

C. Claim 9 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,369,786 B1 to *Azuma* in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,669,700 to *Wendel*

The Applicant has cancelled claim 9 herein without disclaimer or prejudice as to the claimed subject matter. Withdrawal of the rejection of claim 9 under §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Azuma* in view of *Wendel* is therefore respectfully requested.

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SUMMARY

Examiner Choi's §§102(b) and 103(a) rejections of claims 1-12 have been obviated by the cancellation of claims 1-12. The Applicant has supported the patentability of new claims 13-31 over the art of record. The Applicant respectfully submits that claims 13-31 added herein fully satisfy the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §§ 102, 103 and 112. In view of the foregoing, favorable consideration and early passage to issue of the present application is respectfully requested. If any points remain in issue that may best be resolved through a personal or telephonic interview, Examiner Choi is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

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Respectfully submitted,
NORBERT DICKEN, *et al.*

U.S. PHILIPS
580 White Plains Road
Tarrytown, New York 10591
Phone: (914) 333-9669
Fax: (914) 332-0615

Frank Keegan
Registration No. 50,145
Attorney for Applicants



Paul M. Hletko
Registration No. 51,806
Attorney for Applicants

CARDINAL LAW GROUP
Suite 2000
1603 Orrington Avenue
Evanston, Illinois 60201
Phone: (847) 905-7111
Fax: (847) 905-7113